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Attorney/Docket No. 31132.300  
Customer No. 000027683

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: application of:  
Petersman, et al.

Serial No.: 11/031,904

Filed: January 7, 2005

For: INTERCONNECTED SPINAL DEVICE  
AND METHOD

§  
§ Group Art Unit: 3738  
§  
§ Confirmation No.: 8159  
§  
§ Examiner: Unknown  
§  
§

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, and in accordance with the practice under 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed modified Form PTO-1449. No inference should be made that the cited references are in fact material, are in fact prior art, or that no better art exists. The cited patents are listed in numerical order and are not in any order based on their pertinence.


The above-identified application was filed after June 30, 2003. Therefore, pursuant to the waiver of the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98 (a)(2)(i) as stated in a Pre-OG Notice dated July 11, 2003, copies of only the foreign patent documents and non-patent literature listed on the enclosed modified Form PTO-1449 are attached.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the United States filing date or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required (37 CFR §1.97(b)).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-1394.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Julie M. Nickols  
Registration No. 50,826

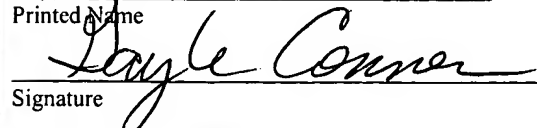
Date: 3/30/05  
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Printed Name

  
Signature

<p>In place of PTO-1449 Form</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APR 0.1 2005</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(use as many sheets as necessary)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Complete if Known</i></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Application Number</td> <td>11/031,904</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Filing Date</td> <td>January 7, 2005</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Applicant(s)</td> <td>Peterman, et al.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Art Unit</td> <td>3738</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Examiner Name</td> <td>Unknown</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attorney Docket Number</td> <td>31132.300</td> </tr> </table>	Application Number	11/031,904	Filing Date	January 7, 2005	Applicant(s)	Peterman, et al.	Art Unit	3738	Examiner Name	Unknown	Attorney Docket Number	31132.300
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<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">SHEET</td> <td style="width: 25%;">1</td> <td style="width: 25%;">OF</td> <td style="width: 25%;">3</td> </tr> </table>	SHEET	1	OF	3									
SHEET	1	OF	3										

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS				
Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date <small>MM-DD-YYYY</small>	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
	A1	4697582	10/06/1987	Williams
	A2	5092866	03/03/1992	Breard, et al.
	A3	5258031	11/02/1993	Salib, et al.
	A4	5282863	02/01/1994	Burton
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	A10	5562737	10/08/1996	Graf
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	A27	6228118	05/08/2001	Gordon

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Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Foreign Patent Document <small>(Country Code - Number - Kind)</small>	Publication Date <small>MM-DD-YYYY</small>	Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <small>Y/N</small>
	B1	FR 2 676 911 - A1	12/04/1992	SOCIETE PSI Societe Civile	N
	B2	EP 0 677 277 A2	10/18/1995	Moreau, et al.	N
	B3	WO 96/00049	01/04/1996	FAIRANT, et al.	Abstract - Y
	B4	WO 99/53871	10/28/1999	CAUTHEN RESEARCH GROUP	Y
	B5	WO 01/39678	06/07/2001	Graf	Abstract - Y
	B6	WO 01/45576	06/28/2001	SYNTHE AG CHUR, et al.	Y

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS		
Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article, title of the item, date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city/country where published

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

In place of PTO-1449 Form		U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  <div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           OIP APR 01 2005         </div>		Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		Application Number		11/031,904	
		Filing Date		January 7, 2005	
		Applicant(s)		Peterman, et al.	
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		Examiner Name		Unknown	
SHEET	2	OF	3	Attorney Docket Number	31132.300

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Examiner's Initials	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
	A28	6368350	04/09/2002	Erickson, et al.
	A29	6402750	06/11/2002	Atkinson, et al.
	A30	6419703	07/16/2002	Fallin, et al.
	A31	2002/0095154	07/18/2002	Atkinson, et al.
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	A37	6517580	02/11/2003	Ramadan, et al.
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	A49	2003/0139813	07/24/2003	Messerli, et al.
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	A55	2003/0204259	10/30/2003	Goble, et al.
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	B7	EP 1 281 361 A1	02/05/2003	Lafitt, S.A.	Y
	B8	DE 101 35771 A1	02/20/2003	Aesculap AG & Co KG	N
	B9	WO 03/041618 A2	05/22/2003	Louis, et al.	Abstract - Y
	B10	WO 03/045262 A2	06/05/2003	SPINE NEXT	Abstract - Y

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	A57	6669729	12/30/2003	Chin
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